

The Mysterious Gift

I was eating dinner after coming home from my archery tournament. I was looking proudly at my first place medal hanging on the wall, when I heard a “ding dong” coming from the front door. Annoyed, I hurried to open the door. There was no one there. “Uh must’ve been a ding dong ditch,” I thought to myself. Then something caught my eye, on my front porch, was a little blue box, intricately wrapped like a Christmas present you would see in those Christmas specials. “Hmm I don’t remember ordering anything this month.” Curiously, I took the box inside and opened it. Inside lay an exquisitely crafted goblet, its surface embedded in radiant gems that shimmered and glowed. “I wonder who would give me such an unusual gift? Didn’t even leave a name.” I thought to myself. “Anyways, its pretty nice, maybe I should keep it.” I reached my hand in the box to grab it, as soon as my fingertip came into contact with the goblet, a bright flash of light consumes my vision, the ground churns and shakes, before I knew it, I was in a free fall, screaming as my heart raced wildly, and then everything went black.

When I opened my eyes, I was lying on a beach. I instinctively reached for my phone to call 911, there was no signal. “what’s that! Sounds like distant chattering and footsteps.” “Seems like there is other people in this strange dimension.” I screamed on top of my lungs for help, and moments later, two men wearing primitive leather armor, helmets, and holding spears as if they were warriors from ancient China or Japan came running towards my direction. “Are you okay sir?” Asked soldier number one. “Yeah yeah, Im fine.” I said. “Hmm you don’t look like you’re from around here,” said soldier number 2. “What is this place and who are you guys?” I asked. Soldier 2 said proudly “This is the island nation of Aetherion, we are fighting in a civil war, we are a part of the 87th infantry battalion’s special recon squadron of the resistance liberating our country from the ruthless rule of the dictator and establish a democratic government with freedom of speech and voting.” “Will you like to join us sir?” said soldiers number one. Hesitantly, I replied “sure, if that means free food and water.” “Very well,” said soldier 2. “Please come with us to the nearest resistance outpost about 10 miles to the east.”

We trailed for a while when I decided to break the ice. “So... what are your names?” I asked. Soldier 1 said, “my name is John.” Soldier 2 said, “my name is Jerry.” “How did you get here?” I said, “I come from another world where things work quite differently than here, we live in big cities and use very advanced technologies, like a phone,” I took out my phone from my pocket and showed it to John and Jerry. “So you can turn this on by pressing this button....” “Wow that is very cool” said Jerry, I wish I can go to your world some day.” “So where do you guys come from?” I asked “I come from the capital.” Said John “I used to be a jewelry merchant, but then the government implemented some new policies and they

seized most of my property, I had to become a farmer to make a living. So I decided to join the resistance.” “I was just a regular farmer and I decided to join the resistance because I thought the government was too corrupt.” Said Jerry. By this time I was feeling extremely hungry for skipping dinner. “Are we there yet? Im hungry.” I asked. “No not for about another half an hour. “Aw man.”

After some more time of trailing, I saw some military style barracks and campfires in the distance. “We’re almost there.” Said John “Yay!” I cried out.

“Hey guys we found a new recruit!” Yelled Jerry to the other soldiers to the camp. “Yo Peter, you mind giving this recruit an assessment?” John said to the man standing next to the archery practice station. Peter looks to be in his late thirties, broad and stocky, with a thick beard covering his jaw adding to his hardened appearance. “Okay new guy, let’s see if you’re good with a bow.” Said Peter in his deep but energetic and approachable voice with a hint of rasp. I picked up a bow and arrow there was no arrow rest, so I had to use my thumb to keep it in place. I held my breath, pulled back the string and release. The arrow flew for a quarter of a second cleanly slicing through the air like it was guided by an invisible barrel before piercing the bullseye with a loud thud. I turned around to see that everyone was staring at me with awe. “Wow that was the best shot I’ve seen in years!” Said Peter “you are definitely getting assigned as an archer. “Get this guy some armor a bow and a quiver of arrows.” “John and Jerry, nice job for finding this guy.”

Just then a soldier who appears to be a scout came sprinting into the camp, gasping for air. “I need to speak to general Smith, this is an emergency!” About 20 seconds later a middle aged man about in his forties or fifties walked out of a tent he is tall and slender, his clean shaven face engraved with battle scars, each a silent reminder of all the hardships he has endured “Let’s hear what you’ve got to say, my fellow comrade.” He said in a deep-serious tone. “Uhh sir, I spotted enemy forces marching to our direction about 20 miles, I think they’re preparing for an all-out assault on this outpost, we have about one hour to prepare!” Said the scout. “Start digging trenches and setting up barbed wires around the base we cannot lose this strategic position to the enemy!” Ordered general Smith.

“sir the trenches are complete.” Reported one of the soldiers to general Smith.” “We have to expect the enemy to be here any minute...” he was interrupted by a loud war horn sound. “The enemy has arrived, all hands report to your battle-stations!” Ordered general Smith.

The air is saturated with arrows flying in both directions. Using my bow, I try as hard as I can to pick off enemies. We are inflicting heavy casualties to the other side, but my comrades are starting to fall all around me. Starting to get overpowered “We are almost out

of arrows!” Said one of the soldiers we need a solution fast. “don’t panic guys,” I said “I have an idea!” I took off my armor and helmet. “Hey are you out of your mind!?” Exclaimed one of the soldiers “you’re gonna die!” We’re all gonna die if we do nothing!” I said. “Can I borrow a spear?”

Sticking the helmet and the armor on the spear, I made a decoy soldier, the moment I raised it up from the trench, dozens of arrows whistled through the air, lodging themselves into the armor. “So we take the arrows out of the decoy, and shoot them back at the enemy.” I explained to everyone. “This is a genius idea!” Said Peter, “lets make more of these contraptions.

One by one the enemy fell, “They’re retreating!” I shouted “We’ve won!” Shouted everyone. “All thanks to the new guy!” Someone said. “Men settle down.” Ordered general Smith.” “We have seen many acts of bravery today especially the amazing idea our new recruit had , without him, our stronghold would’ve fallen to the enemy, we will fight hard to make sure that this is the last offensive the enemy would ever organize this war!” He announced. “I promote you to master chief petty officer!” “Yes sir” I said confidently. “Hip hip hooray!” Chanted the soldiers “long live the revolution!”

Suddenly a flash of light blocks my vision just like the one that brought me here. I can feel the shaking. And before I knew it, I was Back in my living room with my hand clutching the mysterious goblet. “Wow that was an amazing adventure, back to eating dinner.”

The End

By Youjun

Age:12

Grade:7

Teacher: Jenna